

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5 are amended to address informalities. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for informalities. These objections are respectfully traversed.

By this amendment, the abstract has been amended to be presented in one paragraph, the reference to the claims on page 7 of the specification has been removed, and the two paragraphs on page 9 have been reduced to a single paragraph.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 2 and 4 for informalities. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is amended to recite "both surfaces" instead of "both the surface."

Claim 4 has been restored to recite the original subject matter, which was mistakenly truncated in the previous Amendment.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0160690 A1 (Miyazawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, "wherein said lens member forming step forms a curved surface shape on the plastic material so that a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a processing center or geometric center of the plastic material."

Independent claim 4 recites, " wherein said spectacle lens manufacturing device uses,

as the plastic material of a processing target, a lens blank being a partly finished product of which both surfaces are not yet processed to have a curved surface satisfying an ultimate optical specification but have a predetermined surface shape, wherein a processing center of the lens blank matches with a frame center of the edge shape to be processed."

The Office Action cites Figs. 2, 5 and 6 of Miyazawa and asserts that Miyazawa discloses all of the features of independent claims 1 and 4, as well as dependent claims 2, 3 and 5. Applicants respectfully submit that Miyazawa fails to at least disclose forming a curved surface shape on the plastic material, so that a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a processing center or geometric center of the plastic material, as recited in claim 1. Miyazawa similarly fails to disclose a processing center of the lens blank matches with a frame center of the edge shape to be processed, as recited in claim 4.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that in the presently claimed combination of features, a plastic material is processed while the geometric center of a spectacle lens formed to the processed shape (edge shape), which matches the processing center (geometric center) of a plastic material. Thus it becomes possible to define an edge shape in a circular lens having an outside diameter extremely close to the maximum outside diameter of the edge shape, allowing a substantial reduction in waste as compared to a conventional method.

Miyazawa discloses only that various lens surface shapes can be created by a rough-cutting step of creating a near-finish surface shape analogous to a desired lens surface shape from a lens base material, and that a final cutting step creates a finished surface shape of a lens. Thus, while Miyazawa may allegedly discloses an off-center surface to be machined in an arbitrary direction from the geometric center by an arbitrary amount, Miyazawa does not disclose or even hint to the geometric center of a spectacle lens formed to the processed shape (edge shape) matches the processing center (geometric center) of a plastic material.

Thus, Miyazawa fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claims 1 and 4.

Additionally, with respect to claim 2, the Office Action asserts that paragraph [0044] of Miyazawa teaches the semi-finished lens has a thickness relatively larger than a finish thickness. Referencing Figs. 4 and 13 of the present application, claim 2 is directed to reducing waste other than an edging part of a circular lens when a finish-form spectacle lens is cut out from the circular lens. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 has no relation to the difference of the thickness of the semi-finished lens and finished lens. The presently claimed combination of features relates to a radius of a circular lens and an external diameter of a finished spectacle lens (edge shape). Claim 2 discloses a manufacturing a lens, where the relation that an external diameter of the lens blank, having an outside diameter at least larger than a maximum distance between a frame center and a frame of the spectacle frame related to the order, and having the smallest outside diameter. Miyazawa does not disclose or indicate modification of a radius of a circular lens and an external diameter of a finished spectacle lens, as in claim 2.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 variously depend from claim 1. Because the applied reference fails to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 3 and 5 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Substitute Abstract

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